(c) and (d) To overcome the shortage of pilots, foreign pilots are employed by the airline operators after validation of their foreign licences.

(e) Recruitment of pilots is the prerogative of individual airline operator The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled Indian pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for pilots for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class Hying training institute at Gondia. Maharashtra and assistance to Hying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India.

**Mandatory flying checks for pilots**

187. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some flying instructors are clearing aspiring pilots without conducting mandatory Hying checks that test their competence;

(b) if so. the details thereof; and

(c) the steps bcing taken to stop such practices?

THK MINISTI:K OF STATE OF TUP. MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PAfFL): (a) and (b) It has been reported in Ihe limes of India on 6th November. 2007 that Capl.AshimTaxali.ChiefFlying Instructor (CI I) of M/s. Carver Aviation Academy has cleared some student pilots without their Hight test. An enquir\ has been ordered by Director (ieneral of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to invisstigate the malpractices reported in Carver Aviation Academy. The final investigation report is awaited.

(c) Capl. Ashim Taxali has been removed from the CIT position in M/s Carver Aviation Academy pending final investigaiion. The position of CFI has been taken over b Capt. A.K. Mohan. Show Cau.se notices have been served to Capt. Ashim I'axali and the student pilots who fal.sel cleared by him. Further action will be taken al\er the finalisalion of the investigation.

**Casualty in the security ar»a at Delhi Airport**

188. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVLDI:
SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ms. Sanskriti. an Aeronautic Engineer of Deccan Airlines was found killed in the security areaof IGI Airport, Dcliii on 22.10.07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether she was on duty at the moment of her death;

(d) whether the mestery of her death has been solved:

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not. the reasons therefor?

TIIL MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 22.10.2007 while inspecting the satellite apron.

Ms. Sanskriti Sinha, an Aeronautical Engineer of Dcccan Airlines was found dead in the operational area of IGI Airport, Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (0 The case is under investigation with the Delhi Police.

**Helipads for benefit of critically ill patients**

1189. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make helipads for shifting critical patients from one end of the country to the other;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step in this regard, so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATI- Ol- 11 IE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government, at present, do not propose to construct helipads exclusively for handling critical patients, however, helipads are being planned in major cities which could be used for medical exigencies also.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Bagdogra Airport as International Airport**

†l90. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal regarding making Bagdogra Airport as an International Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether Government have received applications from companies for undertaking new flights;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIAflON (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Bagdogra airport is a defence airport where Airports Authority of India (AAI) operates a Civil Enclave to cater to limited domestic traffic. Further, no airlines has made any firm request to operate international flights from this airport. As such, presently, there is no proposal to declare Bagdogra airport as an International airport.

(c) No requests have been received by AAI for undertaking new flights from Bagdogra.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government have issued Route Dispersal Guidelines to regulate air traffic in the country keeping in view the traffic needs of various regions specially the North East Region. All scheduled Airlines are required to deploy at least 10% of their capacity deployed on major trunk routes on routes to and from North East, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Bagdogra is part of North East Region. Subject to compliance with Route Dispersal Guidelines, Airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country in their commercial judgement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.